GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3537
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
CO OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN CENTRAL ASIA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on Co-operative Development and Peace in Central Asia was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein;

(c) whether India is planning to set up a Regional Technology and Expertise Demonstration Centre in Central Asia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such centre is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes. An International Conference on the theme 'Cooperative Development and Peace in Central Asia' was organised by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh on March 15 and 16, 2008.

(b) The seminar covered wide-ranging subjects including contemporary issues of security, peace and development of the region.

(c) The External Affairs Minister, in his inaugural address at the Conference, stated that the Ministry is presently looking at the possibility of setting up a regional centre in Central Asia, which may cater to nationals from the region in areas such as English language training, entrepreneurship development and technical courses.

(d) The above proposal is in a preliminary stage.

(e) As the technical and economic parameters of the proposal have not been worked out, the timelines cannot be indicated at this stage.